



The Nativity North Star

August 28, 2024

The Boys Are Back!

The boys returned to school on August 19th and immediately filled the building with energy and excitement. Here's a quick peak into the past two weeks.



A critical rite of passage at Nativity learning how to tie a tie



Morning assembly with the required handshake and eye contact



Burning off some energy during recess



Half days at the Community Boating Center



Learning to kayak



Playing croquet at Hazelwood Park with Youth Opportunities Unlimited



Making new friends over a board game



Exploring a touch tank at UMass Dartmouth - School



Exploring New Bedford on bicycle

Family Orientation



New and returning families attended Family Orientation on August 12th. The school is fully enrolled with 54 boys. Stay tuned to learn for whom the 5th grade class will be named.

Welcome New Faculty & Administration



Christian Garris, Head of School

Christian started his teaching career over a decade ago in the New Bedford Public School system working at Keith Middle School, Roosevelt Middle School, and Whaling City Junior / Senior High School. He then went back to his alma mater, Tabor Academy, to work in the admissions office. Most recently he was the Director of Multicultural Outreach at The Thacher School in Ojai, California. Christian is currently attending the Harvard Graduate School of Education in pursuit of his Master's degree in School Leadership. Christian is excited to be back home in New Bedford to help lead the future of Nativity Prep.



Michael Morin, Asst. Principal/Faculty

Michael graduated from Roanoke College in 2013 with a B.A. in History and started his career in education at Nativity Prep, serving as a teacher from 2015 to 2019. He then continued his career as an educator for 5 years at St. John Neumann Academy in Blacksburg, Virginia where he taught Social Studies & Math for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. He is looking forward to utilizing his experience as a classroom teacher to facilitate the growth of faculty and students at Nativity Prep.



Adam Mendes, AmeriCorps Teaching Fellow

Adam is beginning his first year at Nativity in the fall of 2024. He graduated from Kenyon College in the spring of 2024 with a B.A. in Political Science. During his time at Kenyon, he played four years of varsity football, volunteered in elementary schools, and worked in the athletic center. In addition to Political Science, he also studied History, and Islamic Civilizations and Cultures. Adam attended high school at Tabor Academy where he played football, wrestled, and played baseball. Adam will teach 5th and 6th grade math, as well as an elective course in which students will track and understand the events of the 2024 election cycle.



Kelly Seitz, AmeriCorps Teaching Fellow

This will be Kelly's first year teaching at Nativity. She is originally from New York and graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 2024 with a B.A. in History and a minor in Education. She student-taught 7th grade social studies at Burncoat Middle School in Worcester this past spring and will be teaching 5th and 6th grade English this year. She is very excited to teach and discuss some of the books she loved reading so much growing up. She looks forward to meeting the Nativity students, facilitating electives such as environmental action and the yearbook committee, and getting to know the school and the New Bedford community this year.

Getting Ready for the Opening of School



Faculty returned to school on July for in-service training. Here they are pictured at the Rotch-Jones-Duff Mansion engaging in professional development.



In addition to three weeks of professional development, the faculty organize the physical space in anticipation of the students' arrival.

Nativity Prep is hosting a town hall for ALL new and returning families on Sept. 9th from 5:00-6:00pm. We would like to hear how the first weeks of school have gone and launch an active Parent Teacher Association. Immediately following, will be a mandatory secondary schools placement meeting for 8th grade families.

Nativity Prep turns 25 years old!

Save the date - **October 18, 2025** - for a community celebration. Help us spread the word to alumni, former faculty, and friends of Nativity Prep!

Seeking Volunteers



Nativity has an array of volunteer opportunities including coaching, tutoring, event planning, and helping out at the front desk. We also have a mentorship program that pairs community members with individual students.

The volunteer program currently numbers more than 100 participants. Won't you join us? Learn more on our website or by contacting Beth Mello at emello@nativitynb.org.

Guest Speaker Series

Do you have a compelling story to tell or wisdom to share? Join our guest speaker series by contacting Beth Mello at emello@nativitynb.org.



Check out more videos from our Guest Speaker Series on our [YouTube Channel!](#)

New England Revolution Game

We still have a limited number of tickets to see the professional soccer team, the New England Revolution, play on **Saturday, Sept 7th** at 7:30pm at Gillette Stadium. Please contact Beth Mello for tickets and more information - emello@nativitynb.org.

Thank you to the Highland Street Foundation for making this possible!

Golf and Tennis Tournament & Auction

You can register to play at our annual Golf and Tennis Tournament at the Mattapoissett Bay Club on Sept 16th [HERE](#). Get ready - we have some exciting auction items including a sunset cruise and Bruins tickets. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Beth Mello at emello@nativitynb.org.

Support quality programming [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars

Sept 2 - NO SCHOOL Labor Day
Sept 7 - 7:30 Revolution Soccer Game at Gillette Stadium
Sept 9 - 5:00-6:00 Parent Meeting/Town Hall
Sept 9 - 6:00-7:00 **REQUIRED** 8th Grade Parent Secondary Schools Meeting
Sept 16 - Golf and Tennis Tournament
Sept 20 - 6:30-8 Fun Night
Sept 21 - Battleship Cove Field Trip
Sept 23 - 4:00 Soccer Game at Alma Ottiwell
Oct 1 - 5:30-7:30 Secondary Schools Fair - Optional Grades 5 & 6; **REQUIRED** 7 & 8

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